

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EA/LC:BSKIRKPATRICK:CB

APPROVED BY EA - MR. MILLER

EUR/NE - MR. CROWLEY

S/S -O - JHOGANSON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 045220

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AEMR, CB, UK

SUBJECT: E AND E - UK PLANS

REF: PHNOM PENH 319) AND STATE 38482

1. SAMUELS OF UK EMBASSY CALLED ON EA DEPUTY ASST SEC MILLER TO INQUIRE WHAT ATTITUDE OF USG WOULD BE IF UK EMBASSY IN PHNOM PENH GAVE "FINAL NOTICE" TO NON-OFFICIAL UK SUBJECTS OF THEIR "LAST CHANCE" TO LEAVE PHNOM PENH. MILLER URGED THAT NO ACTION OF THAT NATURE BE TAKEN WITHOUT FULL COORDINATION WITH OUR EMBASSY IN PHNOM PENH. SAMUELS AGREED AND SAID THAT ANY SUCH ACTION WOULD BE
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TAKEN DISCREETLY.

2. SAMUELS ALSO WONDERED IF THE SITUATION IN PHNOM PENH

REQUIRED REDUCTION OF THE UK EMBASSY TO A SKELETON STAFF. WE REPLIED THAT REDUCTION OF THE UK EMBASSY STAFF MIGHT HAVE AN UNSETTLING EFFECT ON THE KHMER AND REITERATED OUR EARLIER ASSURANCES THAT UK EMBASSY PERSONNEL WERE INCLUDED IN OUR E AND E PLAN.

3. WE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT ALTHOUGH THE MILITARY SITUATION IN CAMBODIA CONTINUES TO DETERIORATE WE DO NOT EXPECT A COLLAPSE UNLESS AMMUNITION IS EXHAUSTED BECAUSE

OF NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS. THIS WOULD PROBABLY NOT OCCUR BEFORE THE END OF MARCH. IN REPLY TO SAMUELS CONCERN OVER A POLITICAL UNRAVELLING AS PROSPECTS FOR ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE DIMINISHED, WE INDICATED THAT THIS COULD NOT BE PREDICTED IN ADVANCE AND THAT IN ANY CASE WE WERE CONTINUING TO URGE CONGRESS TO VOTE THE SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDS REQUESTED.

4. COMMENT: SAMUELS LINE OF QUESTIONING SUGGESTS THAT THE UK MAY HAVE DECIDED TO EVACUATE ITS PRIVATE CITIZENS FROM PHNOM PENH SOON FOR FEAR THAT THE UK COULD NOT CONDUCT A SUCCESSFUL EVACUATION SHOULD THE UNCERTAIN POLITICAL SITUATION IN PHNOM PENH CAUSE AN UNPREDICTABLE RAPID DETERIORATION OF THE MILITARY SITUATION. KISSINGER

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